

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)
September Regional Teleconference Notes
September 28 (SE, SW) and September 30 (NE, NW) 2020

Participants

Andrea Baker, Kosciusko SWCD (NE)
Deb Barnett, Parke Co SWCD (SW)
Jan Came, Vigo Co SWCD (SW)
Don Donovan, NRCS Parke and Vermillion (SW)
Brandi Frazier, Madison County SWCD (NE)
Laura Fribley, ISDA (SE)
Angie Garrison, NRCS Boone/Hamilton (NW)
Genny Helt, NRCS SE Resource Management Specialist (SE)
Jessica Hoehn CCSI (all)
Lisa Holscher – CCSI (all)
Michelle Jones, Morgan Co Extension (SW)
Brad Kohlhagen, Adams Co Extension (NE)
Lais McCartney, Hancock Co Extension, SARE (SE)
Jodi Overmyer – Marshall Co SWCD (NE)
Paul Pendergast, Vigo Co SWCD (SW)
Rachel Rawls, St Joseph Co Extension (NW)
Marc Roberts, Montgomery SWCD / IASWCD (NW)
Melissa Ruschau, Dubois SWCD / VUJC LSI (SW)
Luis Santiago, Daviess Co Purdue Extension (SW)
Hans Schmitz, Posey Co Extension (SW)
Sheila Schroeder, CCSI (all)
Tim Schwipps, NRCS Jefferson/Riply (SW)
Eric Shideler, Vermillion Co SWCD (SW)
Amanda Studor Bond, IDEM (NW)
Andrea Surma, Starke SWCD (NW)
Mark Thomas, ISDA (SE)
Kristi Todd, IDEM (NE)
Daniel Wellage, Parke/Vermillion SWCD (SW)
Stacy White, Randolph County SWCD (NE)
Amy Work, IASWCD (SE, SW)
Erica Wyss, Marshall Co SWCD (NE)

Upcoming Events

- **Nutrient Management Planning Workshops**
 - 3 in-person options: 10/13 Dubois, 10/14 Franklin and 10/15 West Lafayette; Each session scheduled for 9:30 – 3:45 EDT
 - Virtual option: Attend ALL 3 1.5 hour sessions: 10/21, 10/28 and 11/4; Each session scheduled for 1:00 – 2:30 EDT
 - Registration is open on CCSI website on the “Do” tab; in person reg ends 10/5; virtual reg closes 10/16;

- Covid Safety plan has been submitted for in-person sessions; guidelines will include face mask, pre-packaged meals provided, social distancing, hand sanitizer available
 - \$35 in person/\$20 virtual; pay with credit card or mail check to IASWCD; no payment accepted day of trainings; maximum and minimum number of attendees required to hold the trainings – spots could fill up or event could be canceled
- **IASWCD Lunch and Learn**
 - IASWCD hosting Lunch & Learn session each Tuesday in Oct for IN district staff and supervisor from 12:00 – 1:00 PM EDT except for October 20th starts at 10:45. ISDA has workshop that day at noon. Hopefully some can participate in both that day.
 - Watch for information in IASWCD newsletter. Registration will be separate for each session. Registrants will be automatically emailed registration link unique to each session.
 - Oct 6: Source water protection in Indiana speaker from American Water; 13th storm water construction/Rule 5 updates speaker from IDEM; October 20th Janet McCabe, Environmental Resilience Institute, communicating flood plain preparedness to local government officials; Oct 27 IDEM speaking on permitting for wetland tool.
 - **Hoosier Chapter SWCS**
 - Virtual event on November 12 and 19. Can choose to attend one or both sessions. This will be free, but registration will be required.
 - Speakers:
 1. Pete Berthelsen- Partnership Director, The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund and Conservation Blueprint; Opportunities for habitat on private, public and corporate lands; The importance of proper site preparation, seed mixture design, planting and future management to success; Research results that highlight improved pollinator habitat success results.
 2. Matt O’Neal-ISU
 3. Rick Clark-Indiana Farmer
 4. Kevin Tungesvick EcoLogic
 - **Advanced Cover Crops Training** – Anna Morrow from Midwest Cover Crop Council and Eileen Kladienko will give a virtual presentation on relaunch of MCC’s cover crop decision tool. 11 AM EDT on November 5. Right after NRCS program training. Zoom meeting by webinar. Registration is open now.
 - Adams County Extension planning a Nov. 17 in person meeting. They have been interseeding cereal rye into corn; have some drone footage of that; partner with SWCD; Purdue Extension partnering with St Mary’s watershed on a 5 year study, soil samples, water samples, Northern Adams county; Also working on a webinar series; 1st Thursday of each month starting in November, Water Science; December, Soil Fertility – fertilizer, manure; January, Soil Health; February, Cover Crops; March, Dollars and Cents, April, some type of watershed topic.
 - Field day in the works for Sugar Creek area – Boone & Clinton counties, hopefully November, cover crop topic on Boone county plots – covers going in soon, also pollinator plots; virtual field day held last month, working on editing that and putting it on YouTube
 - Morgan County Extension is planning a drive through field day on September 30th.

Graphics available from CCSI

- **Billboard Graphics / #LovINsoil**
 - CCSIN tab for LOVINSOIL. Following requests from SWCDs to use graphics, the CCSI oversight committee decided to make the graphics available to partners. Yard sign graphics will be available on our website to download and use on your own. For other sizes and needs, JPEG files are available to be emailed to you. We can also put you in touch with Big Picture Studio for other needs you may have for the graphics.

- **Root Project**
 - Graphics were sourced from a Dutch university – cover crops dug up, washed roots, did drawings of them, Big Picture Studio created vector images for our use. These are free for download – we ask that they not be used for commercial purposes, they are for education and outreach. Images are going to be used in some upcoming Northcentral SARE publications. There will be power point slides of these available soon as well.
 - Dr. Ray Weil donated to CCSI in honor of Eileen Kladvko and her work with soil health. An email will be sent to those who have downloaded the graphics asking for donation.
 - In other funding news, CCSI received \$100,000 NACD grant. Every SWCD that submitted from IN was funded. Recently received notification that we will receive full funding of \$120,000 requested.

Virtual Field Day Kit availability

If your organization is doing something virtually that has a soil health component, we can ship equipment out to help deliver the message virtually. Items include: regular tripod, articulated tripod, smart phone adapter, tablet adapter, Bluetooth headset, lapel mic, portable charger, gimbles (camera stabilizer made for smart phones). Sending kits out to Paul Jasa and Dave Brandt to be used for some upcoming podcasts/webinars.

If you need help, don't wait to ask as there are a limited number of items and the schedule can get busy at times. Items that are shipped will now come with an inventory list to help you, and us, keep track of what items are where and for how long.

Outreach and Education

- ICP leadership issued guidance on COVID while planning a meeting in mid-September. Reach out to Lisa, Sheila, or Jessica if you did not receive that document.
- Lais McCartney reported that SARE POW is due October 1 and includes a lot of soil health initiatives in it. She is hoping to hold Q and A sessions about 2 upcoming grants: Farmer Rancher grant due 12/5 for one farmer/rancher; youth educator grant – about helping young people learn about sustainable ag principles; due in early November. NCR-SARE has a lot of resources that Lais can send to partners to pass out at your programs, if given enough time beforehand. Many can be sent from the SARE office directly to you. Here is the website with all the resources available: <https://www.sare.org/resources/>. For more information, contact Lais, 317-462-1113, lmccartn@purdue.edu.
- Laura Fribley discussed the training and certification program. Employees around the state just wrapped up sending in what their training needs were and which were high priority, this should be ready for partner distribution soon. The last survey was done in 2017. This was reformatted a bit asking respondents to rank needs as high priority, some interest or no interest. Will be

posted on ICP website also. The top 4 needs by geographic area were also identified. Top rated topics statewide:

1. invasive species plants
 2. backyard conservation and wildlife
 3. pollinators
 4. cover crops
 5. weed ID
 6. how to talk to producers/sell conservation (NOTE: The SARE 2021 plan includes a segment on communicating with farmers)
- Jessica and Sheila will be reaching out to CWI and 319 grant holders to see if CCSI can help execute your outreach and education deliverables.
 - Clay, Vigo, Putnam, and Sullivan working on PHISH (People Helping Improve Soil Health)
 - Daviess County Extension - Trying to figure out how to do in person events. Virtual doesn't work for Amish clientele.
 - Don Donovan - Soil Health Demos video in Spanish. Editing now. Will be available in Spanish. Planning to do them in English as well. Had soil health trailer at 3-day Becks event. Crowd size about 1/3 of usual. Two additional soil health trailers will be constructed.

Other

- Vigo – Amanda Kautz new DC.
- Morgan Co SWCD has new drill for rent.
- Ancilla college has offered to give Marshall County SWCD a few acres to plant test plots, sample plots, open to the public as long as they are educational plots; no plans currently but looking for ideas for those plots; also, anyone in need of pollinator signs – Xerces society has them available from their supplier you can order them and you can add your own logo to them
- IDEM received 14 applications for 319, currently reviewing applications; IDEM is developing a Lake Michigan watershed webinar series; starting soon, watch for information; October – February, 1-2 per month; topics like IDEM NPS work; Stream and wetland mitigation; Federal Partnerships; Watershed groups, etc.
- Andrea Baker, Kosciusko Co. SWCD – interested in a list of recordings – webinars, trainings, etc. that they can refer producers and others to with the lack of in person field days and trainings going on right now. Might be helpful to have a list of these available.